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# 'Partial, Half-Truths' Defended By State Dept. Information Chief

By MARSHALL McNEIL

WASHINGTON, July 13.—A statement by Roger Hilsman, State Department director of intelligence and research, that some of his reports to policy-makers contain "a half truth" or "partial truth" may get an indignant airing on the House floor.

Such "truths" make "people sit up and think," Hilsman told a Congressional hearing, Rep. Frank Bow (R., Ohio), whose questioning yielded this testimony, said today he intended to discuss the intelligence and research operations of the State Department when its appropriations bill is debated.

## In Transcript

Bow's questioning of Hilsman is reported in the transcript of House Appropriations Committee hearings.

Hilsman said his bureau, which wants about \$3 million for this fiscal year, "develops and implements a comprehensive co-ordinated program of policy-relevant research and analysis for the department and for other federal agencies." Hilsman serves on the United States Intelligence Board, whose chairman is Director John McCone of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Among his ways of gathering material for the usually secret reports he makes to policy-makers, Hilsman explained he was sending agents to Viet Nam to interview Communist Viet Cong prisoners.

## Study Methods.

"If we are to succeed there," he told the committee, "we have to know a great deal about the method of Viet Cong operations and their appeals and attempts to recruit."

Among studies already made is one on Communist guerrilla warfare. Hilsman said it had been "extremely useful" and is being used at Fort Bragg, N. C.

Hilsman commanded a guerrilla unit of the World War II Office of Strategic Services which operated successfully against the Japanese in Burma.

He handed Bow one of his bureau's policy research studies classified secret, explaining that "this particular one the President has seen."

Bow asked if he knew whether the President was "frightened" by the report as he was.

## He Doesn't Know

Hilsman said he couldn't guarantee the President read it.

Hilsman, who said some of his bureau's reports were written by persons who did not have complete security clearance, then added:

"Of course, some of the statements you have read are not completely valid. On the other hand, there may be a half truth here or a partial truth which will make people sit up and think."

"If I am sitting down in the State Department," Bow remarked, "and this is given me as a research study from the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, I should think that I would have a right to believe this is not half truth or partial truth, and be able to rely upon it. Is our foreign policy made on reports with half truths or partial truths? That is pretty dangerous."

## Thought-Provoking

Hilsman answered that "it should make you think and it should have some findings which are useful," but he was not allowed to finish this statement, for Bow interrupted:

"Do you mean to tell me in order to get the people in the State Department to think, we have to feed them half truths? I do not agree with that. I would hope they are much more intelligent than that down there."